

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-17 (canceled)

Claim 18 (previously presented): An information processing apparatus for collecting user information, comprising:

speech recognizing means for recognizing speech of a user;

dialog sentence creating means for creating a dialog sentence to exchange a dialog with the user based on a result of the speech recognition performed by said speech recognizing means; and

collecting means for collecting the user information based on the speech recognition result, wherein said collecting means tracks when a same topic is included in the speech of the user for a designated length of time based on the speech recognition result and collects the user information based on the designated length of time.

Claim 19 (previously presented): An information processing apparatus according to Claim 18, further comprising storage means for storing the user information.

Claim 20 (previously presented): An information processing apparatus according to Claim 18, wherein said dialog sentence creating means outputs the dialog sentence as one of a text and synthesized sounds.

Claim 21 (previously presented): An information processing apparatus according to Claim 18, wherein said collecting means collects the user information based on an appearance frequency of a word contained in the speech recognition result.

Claim 22 (previously presented): An information processing apparatus according to Claim 18, wherein said collecting means collects the user information based on a broader form of a word contained in the speech recognition result.

Claim 23 (previously presented): An information processing apparatus according to Claim 18, wherein the user information is information indicating interests of the user.

Claims 24-29 (canceled)